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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/573,358

03/24/2006

Francis Geiser

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27179

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02/23/2010

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EXAMINER

HYEON, HAE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/23/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/573,358	GEISER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hae Moon Hyeon	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11 and 13-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11 and 13-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 December 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/11/09</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on December 11, 2009. These drawings are approved.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 9 and 14 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Claim 1, line 1, the examiner suggests the applicant to change "including" to -- comprising --.
 - Claim 1, lines 2 and 4, the examiner suggests the applicant to change "comprising" to -- including -- or -- having --.
 - Claim 9, lines 4-5, the examiner suggests the applicant to change "said device including" to -- said connecting device comprising --.
 - Claim 14, line 3, the examiner suggests the applicant to change "said device including" to -- said power supply device comprising --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 9, 11, 13, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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- Claim 9, lines 9-11 recite that two connecting lugs ensures mechanical maintenance and the electrical link with the metallic strips **after introduction of the metallic strips into the free engagement space**. However, according to the present specification page 8, lines 8-12, the connecting lugs are introduced into the free engagement space. Therefore, it seems that "**after introduction of the metallic strips into the free engagement space**" recited in claim 9, lines 10-11 should be -- after introduction of **the two connecting lugs** into the free engagement space --.
- Claim 14, lines 7-9 has the same problem as claim 9, lines 9-11.
- Claim 9, lines 10 and 12 recite, "**the** electrical link", but line 14 recites, "**an** electrical link". It is not clear whether the electrical link of lines 10 and 12 is the same electrical link of line 14. If these electrical links are the same electrical links, the first occurring term should be written -- an electrical link --.
- Claim 14, lines 8, 10 and 12 have the same problem as claim 9, lines 10, 12 and 14.

5. Claim 15 recites the limitation "the power-supply lugs" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

While claim 14, line 1 recites, "A **power supply device**" and line 5 recites, "**a connecting lug**", claim 14 does not recite, -- the power-supply lugs --.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Compagnie Generale (FR 2027501).

Compagnie Generale discloses an electrical coupling bar comprising: an electrically insulating support 60 including two parallel grooves 67, 68, a metallic strip 57, 58 inserted into the support by engaging each groove 67, 68, the metallic strips 57, 58 projecting out of the grooves 67, 68 and including exhibiting interior faces opposite one another, wherein delimiting between them a free engagement space 90 for a connecting device 80 is delimited between the metallic strips 57, 58, said free engagement space 90 being devoid of any element or of any part or extremity of said support 60, and strip protection means (see Figs. 4 and 5) covering the other faces of the metallic strips, wherein the strip protection means and the support are produced from a single piece. The support is obtained by molding of the metallic strips from a casting and is made from a material having a shape and a rigidity enabling the metallic strips to be immobilized. The support also includes a fastening component 75. Figure 4 shows the fastening component 75 being a projecting part approximately perpendicular to the interior faces of the metallic strips 67, 68. The at least one electrical coupling bar is equipped in an electrical cabinet.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 9 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

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Conclusion

9. Applicant's submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97(c) with the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p) on December 11, 2009 prompted the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 609.04(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hae Moon Hyeon whose telephone number is 571-272-2093. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8:30-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hae Moon Hyeon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2839

hnh